

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. through 15. (cancelled).

16. (currently amended): A developing device comprising:
a developer carrier for carrying a developer, including
an opposing region that opposes a latent image-carryable region on an image
carrier, and
a solid portion that is solid at an end portion of the developer carrier in a
longitudinal direction thereof,
wherein the developing device develops a latent image carried in the latent image-
carryable region with the developer carried on the developer carrier, and
an end of the solid portion, which is on a side of a center of the developer carrier in the
longitudinal direction, is located closer to the center of the developer carrier than an edge of the
opposing region;~~The developing device according to claim 4,~~
wherein the developing device develops the latent image carried in the latent image-carryable region with the developer carried on the developer carrier, in a state that the developer carrier and the image carrier are not in contact with each other, and

a deflection amount of the developer carrier at an end portion of the developer carrier in a longitudinal direction thereof is smaller than a deflection amount at a center of the developer carrier in the longitudinal direction.

17. (withdrawn): The developing device according to claim 16, further comprising an abutment member that abuts against the developer carrier along the longitudinal direction of the developer carrier,

wherein the developer carrier is supported at both ends in the longitudinal direction thereof so that the developer carrier is abutted with the abutment member along the longitudinal direction of the developer carrier.

18. (withdrawn): The developing device according to claim 17, wherein the abutment member presses the developer carrier towards the image carrier.

19. (withdrawn): The developing device according to claim 17, wherein the abutment member is a developer supply member for supplying the developer to the developer carrier.

20. (withdrawn): The developing device according to claim 17, wherein the abutment member is a layer thickness regulating member for regulating a layer thickness of the developer carried on the developer carrier.

21. (withdrawn): The developing device according to claim 16, wherein the developer carrier is made of metal.

22. (withdrawn): The developing device according to claim 16, wherein the latent image carried on the image carrier is developed with the developer using a jumping development format.

23. (currently amended): A developing device comprising:
a developer carrier for carrying a developer, including
an opposing region that opposes a latent image-carryable region on an image
carrier, and
a solid portion that is solid at an end portion of the developer carrier in a
longitudinal direction thereof,
wherein the developing device develops a latent image carried in the latent image-
carryable region with the developer carried on the developer carrier, and
an end of the solid portion, which is on a side of a center of the developer carrier in the
longitudinal direction, is located closer to the center of the developer carrier than an edge of the
opposing region;~~The developing device according to claim 4,~~
wherein the developing device develops the latent image carried in the latent image-carryable region with the developer carried on the developer carrier in a state that the developer carrier and the image carrier are not in contact with each other;

wherein a deflection amount of the developer carrier at an end portion of the developer carrier in a longitudinal direction thereof is smaller than a deflection amount at a center of the developing carrier in the longitudinal direction;

wherein the developing device further includes an abutment member that abuts against the developer carrier along the longitudinal direction of the developer carrier, and the developer carrier is supported at both ends in the longitudinal direction thereof so that the developer carrier is abutted with the abutment member along the longitudinal direction of the developer carrier;

wherein the abutment member presses the developer carrier towards the image carrier;

wherein the abutment member is a developer supply member for supplying the developer to the developer carrier;

wherein the developer carrier is made of metal; and

wherein the latent image carried on the image carrier is developed with the developer using a jumping development format.

24. (currently amended): A developer carrier for carrying a developer, the developer carrier comprising:

an opposing region that opposes a latent image-carryable region on an image carrier, and
a solid portion that is solid at an end portion of the developer carrier in a longitudinal
direction thereof;

wherein an end of the solid portion, which is on a side of a center of the developer carrier in the longitudinal direction, is located closer to the center of the developer carrier than an edge of the opposing region;

~~The developer carrier according to claim 1,~~ wherein the developer carrier carries a developer for developing a latent image carried on an image carrier in a state that the developer carrier and the image carrier are not in contact with each other, and

wherein the deflection amount of the developer carrier at an end portion of the developer carrier in a longitudinal direction thereof is smaller than a deflection amount at a center of the developing carrier in the longitudinal direction.

25. (currently amended): An image forming apparatus comprising a developing device including:

an image carrier for carrying a latent image, and

a developer carrier for carrying a developer, the developer carrier including an opposing region that opposes a latent image-carryable region on the image carrier and a solid portion that is solid at an end portion of the developer carrier in a longitudinal direction thereof,

wherein the developing device develops a latent image carried in the latent image-carryable region with the developer carried on the developer carrier, and

an end of the solid portion, which is on a side of a center of the developer carrier in the longitudinal direction, is located closer to the center of the developer carrier than an edge of the opposing region;~~The image forming apparatus according to claim 14~~

wherein the developing device develops the latent image carried in the latent image-carryable region with the developer carried on the developer carrier in a state that the developer carrier and the image carrier are not in contact with each other, and

wherein a deflection amount of the developer carrier at an end portion of the developer carrier in a longitudinal direction thereof is smaller than a deflection amount at a center of the developer carrier in the longitudinal direction.

26. (previously presented): A computer system comprising:
a computer mainframe;
a display device connectable to the computer mainframe and
an image forming apparatus connectable to the computer mainframe, the image forming
apparatus comprising a developing device including:
an image carrier for carrying a latent image, and
a developer carrier for carrying a developer, the developer carrier including an opposing
region that opposes a latent image-carryable region on the image carrier and a solid portion that
is solid at an end portion of the developer carrier in a longitudinal direction thereof,
wherein the developing device develops a latent image carried in the latent image-
carryable region with the developer carried on the developer carrier, and
an end of the solid portion, which is on a side of a center of the developer carrier in the
longitudinal direction, is located closer to the center of the developer carrier than an edge of the
opposing region;~~The computer system according to claim 15~~

wherein the developing device develops the latent image carried in the latent image-carryable region with the developer carried on the developer carrier in a state that the developer carrier and the image carrier are not in contact with each other, and

wherein a deflection amount of the developer carrier at an end portion of the developer carrier in a longitudinal direction thereof is smaller than a deflection amount at a center of the developer carrier in the longitudinal direction.

27. through 75. (cancelled).